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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 331. APRIL, 1934.

CLEAN LIFE. PURE HEART. EAGER INTELLECT.

"Add to your faith"—II. PETER 1, 5.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Our Subscribing Brethren have recently had an exceedingly interesting and successful Pageant of "Presbyterianism throughout the Ages," in a series of tableaux in the Assembly Hall, Belfast. One was "The burning bush," a symbol, in front of the Hall itself, as well as shown outside each church, either on notice-board or carving — an appropriate emblem of a Church, in whose history and traditions we share, seeing that we are where we are to-day, because we remained staunch to the constitution of the old General Synod of Ulster, which allowed subscription to the "standards of faith" to be optional if an ordinand preferred not to subscribe. The emblem arises from the Covenanting times, when the Presbyterian Church endured the fires of persecution, "but was not consumed," and we claim our heritage as "Sons of the Covenant."

* * *

Going back as far as Moses, we are brought to events which because of excavations and discoveries made during the last three years, are vested with new life, supplementing work done at Mount Sinai as long ago as 1905, when an ancient temple was explored there, the Temple of Serabit, used for a form of worship unlike that of Egypt. The inference is that Moses knew of this temple and its ritual before the exodus, and when he appealed to Pharaoh "to go three days journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God," that was where he and the Israelites went to, and it was there that he found the model for his tabernacle worship. This is of especial interest to Freemasons, as showing a tradition passing into a fathomless antiquity.

* * *

There is abroad a wonderful fresh interest in the Bible. It is acclaimed as "the best seller." *The Daily Express*, in an article on the Bible, mentioned that in a crowded London tube train a typical city man glanced at his evening paper, then drew a copy of the "Good Old Book from his pocket and began to read it. His fellow passengers stared in amazement." The article, after referring to the wide-spread knowledge of the Bible in an older generation, says that Lord Fisher was a constant Bible reader. During the war Earl Haig kept a Bible on his desk at Army headquarters and read it daily, sometimes alone and sometimes to his personal staff. The late Dr. Besant told us how fond she was of the Authorised Version, because of the richness of its diction. In her lectures she frequently quoted sometimes quite long passages from memory. We have heard it maintained that the Authorised Version is even more inspired than the original.

* * *

A remarkable United Act of Worship and Witness took place recently at Cairo as a result of thirteen years' work on the part of the *Fellowship of Unity* which seeks to bring together the Eastern and Western Churches. The service was held in the Armenian Cathedral. At the appointed time the clergy, robed, assembled for prayer in a room of the Armenian Patriarchate and were censed by the thurifer. The procession was then formed, led by the cross, acolytes, and choirmen of the Armenian Cathedral. There followed two pastors of the Egyptian Presbyterian Church, the pastor of the German Lutheran Church, the clergy (Egyptian and English) of the Anglican Church, preceding their bishop, a

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to the Manager, Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

priest of the Coptic Orthodox Church, two Archimandrites and two Archbishops of the Greek Orthodox Church, and finally the Armenian bishop with his attendant priests. A congregation of about one thousand persons filled the cathedral, and in the service that then followed at least seven different languages were used.

* * *

General Assembly annual meetings, London, April 23-27, 1934.

* * *

The International Association for Liberal Christianity and Religious Freedom will meet at Copenhagen, August 14-19, 1934. Copenhagen in Denmark is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, "a city of churches and parks and sculpture," and its people are very hospitable. At the entrance to the harbour perches a bronze mermaid, seated quite naturally on one of the boulders. The following are the three subjects to be discussed:—1, The Bearing of Religion on Political Life; 2, The Place of Liberals in the Church Universal; 3, What Does Revelation Mean to the Liberal? We suggest that "The Return to God" would be a refreshing subject.

* * *

The Temperance Committee of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church have arranged for a united public meeting to be held in the Church, York Street, Belfast, on Thursday evening, April 5th at 8 p.m. We have been fortunate in securing the services of the Rev. T. M. Johnstone, B.A., the Moderator-Elect of the General Assembly and Convener of the Temperance Committee of the Presbyterian Church, and who is widely known as an eloquent and forceful speaker on the Temperance question. We earnestly appeal to the members of all our Non-Subscribing Churches to make an effort to attend this meeting. Light refreshments provided by the kindness of the York Street Congregation for country friends.

DR. AGNEW.

Our readers will be sorry to hear of the illness of the Rev. Dr. Agnew, and will sympathise very much with both Mrs. Agnew and him in his relapse after having had such a prolonged and hopeful spell of good health.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

U.U.C.A.

The annual sermons in connection with the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association will be preached by the Rev. A. W. Vallance, B.A., of Pendleton, Manchester, morning and evening in the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, on Sunday, April 8th. The annual meeting, which has hitherto been held in the evening, will take place (D.V.) at 3 p.m. on Monday, 9th, to be followed by refreshments. Among the speakers will be Rev. A. W. Vallance, B.A., Rev. J. Barron. The chair will be taken by the Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. Please note the change of time.

CHANNING SCHOOL, LONDON.

New Offer of Bursaries.

The attention of parents is drawn to the fact that in May and September the School is offering a number of Aston Bursaries of 45 Guineas per annum to suitable girls. This means a substantial reduction of fees—from 130 Guineas to 85 Guineas a year—for board and tuition. These bursaries will not be awarded solely on the ground of scholarships for it is proposed to consider applicants who may show themselves suited to take advantage of the Public School education which Channing School offers.

In recent years the number of girls from the North of Ireland has diminished, owing no doubt partly to expense, and it is hoped the offer of these bursaries will be taken into consideration by parents throughout our Non-Subscribing Church.

BODEL-MACKENZIE FUND.

Last September thirty-five beneficiaries were elected. Four receive grants of £20, two of £15, nine of £10, and twenty of £8. Collections were made at Holywood, Belfast (First), Moneyrea and Newtownards. The trustees regret that at the present time they are unable to consider any new applicants. The annual statement of accounts shows a balance in hand of £37 10s. 7d., the income being £407 7s. 7d. and expenditure £395 5s. 7d. Hon secretary, Rev. J. J. Magill, B.A.; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. McRobert; assistant secretary, Rev. D. J. Williams.

Published on the **Fourth** Saturday of the month. Copy should be in before the **21st** at the latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

OUR COUNTRY CHURCHES.

BY H. J. F. ORR.

Moneyrea.

MINISTERS

—Hamilton	1725-1735
—McCullagh	1735-1746
James McKean	1746-1774
Sam. Patton	1774-1809
Fletcher Blakely, M.A.	1809-1862
John Jellie	1859-1862
John Bearyhill	1863-1864
David Thompson	1864-1874
Thomas Leyland	1875-1878
Harold Rylett	1879-1884
Geo. W. Bannister	1885-1888
Richard Lyttle	1889-1905
G. J. Slipper	1906-1909
M. Watkins	1910-1915
A. Whitford	1916-1929
J. D. Davies	1929-——

Newry.

Congregation formed 1650. Present Church 1853.

MINISTERS

George Lang	1688-1702
Robert Rainey	1706-1736
James Moody	1740-1779
Boyle Moody	1779-1799
John Thom	1800-1808
A. G. Malcolm, D.D.	1809-1823
John Mitchell	1823-1840
Henry Alexander	1840-1865
John A. Crozier, B.A.	1865-1890
S. C. Pinkerton, B.A.	1891-1903
G. V. Crook	1903-1907
Supplies	1907-1909
G. J. Slipper	1909-1933

Newtownards.

Congregation formed 1642.

MINISTERS

John Maclellan	1642-——
John Grey	1650-1670
Thomas Kennedy, M.A.	1670-1688
Alex Hutcheson	1689-1691
John Smith	——-1704
John Mears	1705-1718
John Mears	1720-1735
—Dobbin	——-——
Wm. Sinclair	1790-1798
Joseph Osborne	1802-1846
Hugh Moore, M.A.	1826-1888
Geo. Lansdowne	1888-1891
John J. Magill, B.A.	1894-1896
R. M. King	1890-1923
W. H. T. Tilson	1931-——

Rademon.

Congregation formed 1713. Church built 1787.

MINISTERS

Thomas Elder	1716-1727
Sam. Fergie	1728-1765
Moses Neilson, D.D.	1767-1823
Arthur Nelson	1810-1831
Wm. Crozier, M.A.	1832-1872
James Kennedy	1869-1878
Barnard Gisby	1879-1880
John A. Kelly	1880-1896
John J. Magill, B.A.	1896-——

Raloo.

Congregation formed 1838.

MINISTERS

John Compton	1839-1848
W. Orr McGowan	1848-1852
Thomas Smyth	1852-1877
James Kedwards	1877-1885
Edgar S. Anthony, M.A., B.D.	1885-1887
Alfred Turner	1888-1890
J. C. Miskimmin, B.A.	1891-1903
J. McCleery	1903-——

Ravara.

Congregation formed 1837.

J. D. Davies	1930-——

Templepatrick.

MINISTERS

Josias Welsh	1626-1634
Anthony Kennedy	1646-1697
Jas. Kirkpatrick, M.D.	1699-1706
Wm. Livingstone	1709-1758
Robert White	1755-1772
John Abernethy	1774-1796
Robert Campbell	1796-1855
James McFerran	1849-——
Joseph Nelson	1850-1852
Sam. Ferguson	1852-1854
Robert Campbell	1854-1882
Francis McBlair	1882-1884
Arrousmith H. Shelley	1884-1890
Alfred Turner	1890-——

Warrenpoint.

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Dromore Road, (1707-1820).

MINISTERS

W. E. Mellone	1896-1910
Supplies	1910-1915
G. J. Slipper	1915-1933

SERVICE—NOT SELF—II.

Happily, there is evidence of a growing desire in our midst for more definite information as to how a better social order might be established with advantage to all concerned. The answer to this que tion can only be found in that outlook upon life that sees beyond personal or sectional advantage to the larger good. With further knowledge it will be made plain to all that the important interest in life is not how much pleasure and enjoyment we may obtain, but how much useful service we can render. This method of attainment not only improves the contribution we make to the common weal, but it exerts an influence for good upon the growth of the individual contributor's character, an invaluable form of wealth which will be his in lives yet to come.

If it be true (as I believe it is) that those "who hunger and thirst after righteousness" are not left without guidance as to how their aspirations may be gratified, it should also follow that the present widely felt desire for more reliable data as to the why and wherefore of life, will be fu filled. A truly scientific explanation of the more profound problems of life which are now hidden in the depths will, following this gradual unfoldment of man's capacities through rightly directed effort, reveal itse f and become a source of further happiness and progress.

It is equally certain that the best contribution to the sum of human welfare is made by people whose everyday activities are animated by the spirit of service and-which takes little account of self. This is the spirit which creates unity and harmony in the family group and develops the child into a good citizen.

To reach the more satisfactory conditions in every community it is obviously necessary that its individual units should be animated by the spirit of fellowship and goodwill; and only as this outlook upon life is more widely recognised, will it be possible to create the like conditions in the outer world. It is well to keep this ideal in mind, even if we cannot at present bring it into full realisation, for efforts in that direction will bring us a little nearer a true at-one-ment with the Heavenly Powers.

Wherever the right spirit is engendered, there will be found not only a process of growth and unfoldment being established in the individual worker, but it will promote equally the welfare of the community.

To some this statement may appear visionary: yet is it altogether hopeless? Have we not known people

> "Who carry music in their heart
> Through dusky lane and wrangling mart,
> Plying their daily task with busier feet
> Because their secret souls a holy strain repeat"?

Is it not also an observed fact that those who have reached this stage in the growth of enlightenment become centres of encouragement and helpfulness to others? This is proved by the widespread influence which is exerted by the Great Seers of the race, wherever they manifest themselves.

The change from childhood to manhood is not, however, brought about in a day; and in the same way the goal of evolutionary progress cannot be reached in a single life, for the present life is evidently but a day in the larger existence which did not begin at birth and will not end at death. Scientists tell us that it has taken thousands of years for the human race to reach its present stage in development, and it naturally follows that there will still be required a considerable time and much rightly directed effort before the goal of human perfection is attained. Nevertheless, though the progress appears to be slow, it is sure, and its achievement is well worth the strenuous effort which it costs.

Did not the greatest Seer that Heaven has yet vouchsafed to man, stress the importance of cultivating this spirit as the only sure way of attainment? and one of His most enlightened Apostles wrote to his Roman followers: "If thine enemy hunger feed him. if he thirst give him drink", thus replacing the teaching of the old dispensation by a better method of achieving the desired end. This Apostle of the Gentiles had envisaged the great truth that each thought and deed sets up its corresponding reaction, a principle which is everywhere operative and manifests itself in the simple fact that a smile is answered by a smile and a frown by a frown. His teaching always directs attention to the cultivation of the spirit of fellowship and goodwill as the essential condition of happiness and progress.

Physiologists are agreed that physical disease is always the result of a lack of efficiency and harmony on the part of one or other of the organs, and that in any effort to improve functional disorder, it is essential to build up the general health. The nations of Europe and our own national and industrial organisations—both of capital and of labour—have been adopting in the past an exactly opposite principle, for they have believed it possible to increase the welfare of their own

particular sections by such methods as international war and industrial strife, which are bound to lower the vitality of the organism, be it the family of nations or an industrial community. The experience of the past two decades, however, had made it perfectly clear that the physiologist's point of view, that the health of an organism can only be secured by each cell and organ ordering its activities in harmony with the general good, is the correct one.

The subject is far from exhausted, but perhaps enough has been written to indicate that with a more enlightened outlook upon life will come a clearer vision as to the relative value of methods which are animated by the desire for temporary pleasure, as compared with those which have for their definite aim the advancement of the common weal.

The contrast between these two methods lies in the fact that, while the one envisages an immediate personal or sectional advantage without much regard to its future reactions; the other derives its inspiration from the higher centres of our being and, having in consequence a wider outlook, concerns itself with the general movement towards higher levels of attainment. The one ignores the future; but the other, in recognising that it is our present thoughts and acts which mould the later outward conditions, realises that we must reap as we sow.

It is for this reason that it becomes imperative that more attention be given to research for more definite knowledge as to the application to human life of the irrevocable law of seedtime and harvest. Such knowledge would give the world a clearer vision and enable everyone to see the desirability of disciplining our every activity in such ways as will bring each individual into line with the principles of unity and harmony, a result which can only be achieved as we cultivate the spirit so aptly described in the phrase "Service – not Self".—JOSEPH BIBBY.

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"The Free Church of America" has absorbed the names "Universalist" and "Unitarian," which are only retained for subsidiary purposes.

WOMEN ELDERS.

The only Church from which the Presbyterian has broken away is the Roman Catholic. In England the various sects broke away from the Church of England. The Church of Scotland claims its title as the continuation of the ancient national Church, liberated from the Papacy. The basis of Presbyterianism is that the Church has its roots in the spiritual world, from whence comes its life and guidance; in the secular business of the Church, minister and elders form the session, which is supplemented by a committee of management, of which the session is ex-officio the permanent nucleus. The minister is moderator of the session, and no meeting is valid without his presence. The Unitarian and Free Christian Churches in England, and the Free Church of America are on an entirely different basis. Ultimately the authority is based in the congregation, and each congregation is practically a separate denomination in itself. Among Congregationalists in Great Britain and America women have been ordained to the ministry. The Non-Subscribing Church, in Church polity, is closely allied to the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and in any new development in church order would await the lead of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. The question of Women Elders is being debated in the Presbyterian Churches, and the outlook is totally different from that of the Congregationalists, who have no conception of the Church idea in their voluntary unions of congregations. The matter of appointing women as elders or representatives to their church courts is, therefore, not one to be decided in our case by individual congregations; the implications being so far-reaching as to demand very careful and serious consideration by the General Synod itself before any step is taken in this direction.—J.B.

OF or IN?

The deity *of* Christ is generally taken to mean that Jesus was God. The deity *in* Christ means that God was in Christ,—God in Jesus! God in the snow-drop! The scriptural authority for the deity of Christ, depends in England on a comma, in U.S.A. there is a full stop which divides a Hebrew minor benediction from "Christ," viz., "God be blessed for ever." This is corrected in margin of Revised Version. To say *in* is not enough, you must say *of* or you will not be allowed to join the Y.M.C.A. or Toc H, and the Archbishop of York may pronounce you, not a Christian! Are you *of* or *in*? ULLIN.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

Mountpottinger—On Feb. 5 Miss Praegar gave a very nice talk on Saint Patrick; she made some very interesting references to his early Mission Work in Ireland, and also read some passages from his writings. During the evening Miss Elva Orr sang three Irish Ballads which also gave great pleasure. Miss Ashworth kindly officiated at the Piano. The Chair was occupied by Mrs. J. H. Ewbank and at the close of the meeting she thanked Miss Praegar for her kindness in giving us such a pleasant and instructive evening. The subject matter was of such interest that one wished there had been time to hear more about this wonderful Saint.—K.F.

Belfast First Church—The month of February has been a very busy one for our members. On the 7th the annual New Year party was held in the Central Hall. There was a large attendance, including a number of friends from neighbouring branches, whose presence added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. After tea had been disposed of, an informal programme was carried out, which included games and competitions and two novel items provided by 1st Church members which caused much amusement, a "Toy Symphony," organised by Mrs. James Moore, and an exhibition of "Mrs. Jarley's Waxworks," Mrs. Hume very ably taking the part of Mrs. Jarley. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a happy evening to a close. In conjunction with Mountpottinger branch a lantern lecture was given by Mr. Welch, M.R.I.A., in the Central Hall on the 21st Feb., the subject being, "Beautiful Shells."

Banbridge—The branch opened with its usual monthly meeting in October. Since then it has had varied activities. Socks were knitted and many other garments made for the Sewing Guild of the local District Hospital. In November a social evening was held. Mrs. Glynne Davies of Comber, who had promised to lecture on a Tour in Donegal, was unfortunately obliged to postpone her engagement through illness. However, Miss Godding stepped into the breach with a delightful address on "Marriage Customs the World Over," which was much appreciated by a very good gathering, including friends from Dromore. Tea was provided, and a light entertainment augmented the programme with pleasing songs from Miss Helen Stevenson, recitations from Miss Dorothy Godding, and a happy selection of gramophone records by Miss M'Keown. A very successful evening resulted. On another occasion (in February) Mrs. Slipper very kindly came and gave a most interesting lecture on "A Holiday in Norway," illustrated by lantern slides. These included her own happy snaps and special slides provided by the Norwegian Railway Company. An excellent lantern was kindly lent by Rev. Mr. McKee of Newry. Mr. H. Heather, A.L.C.M., also entertained with a much appreciated pianoforte recital from the works of Edward Greig, the greatest Norwegian composer, providing a most suitable atmosphere. On this occasion also our friends from Dromore attended. It was a public entertainment and the proceeds, including donations from Ballycarry, Comber and Dromore, were devoted to the Branch Benevolent Fund.—E.G.

COLONEL SHARMAN-CRAWFORD.

It is only fitting that *The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian* should pay a tribute to the memory of the great Irishman, Colonel Sharman-Crawford, who passed away on Tuesday, March 20th, 1934. He held the highest possible office in Fre masonry in Ireland. He was keenly interested in Spiritualism. Concerning his many activities in political and social life, the public press has supplied ample details. His name figured on the list of subscribers to our Orphan Fund, and an account appeared some time ago in these pages in connection with his benefactions to our Rademon congregation.

— **The Unitarian and** —

Free Christian Laymen's League.

—:o:—

BELFAST CHAPTER

meets in the CENTRAL HALL, ROSEMARY STREET, at 8 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, October to May, inclusive.

OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

The Committee invite those who are not already members to join. The minimum subscription is 2/6, and further particulars may be obtained from—

MR. J. H. GILLILAND,

35 Rosemary St., Belfast, Hon. Sec.

MR. J. EDMONDSON, Jr., Asst. Hon, Sec.

19 Lime Street, Belfast.

REPORTS.

Moneyrea Church Session House—The new Session-house in connection with Moneyrea (Co. Down) Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in memory of the Porter family, of Lisleen, has been opened. A service was held in the church, at which Rev. W. H. Townley Tilson, M.A., Grey Abbey, and Rev. J. D. Davies, minister of the congregation, officiated. Afterwards the large congregation assembled at the new building, which was formally opened by Mrs. Davies, wife of Rev. J. D. Davies, by special wish of the donors, the Misses Porter, Dundonald. Mrs. Davies was presented with a silver key to perform the ceremony by Mr. John Boyd (Messrs John Boyd and Son, Dundonald), the contractor. Rev. J. D. Davies, who presided, at the outset referred to the great generosity of the Porter family, and said they were all delighted that the Misses Porter were able to be with them that afternoon. The family had a long connection with the church. The late Mr. Edward J. Porter, Lisleen, had been an active supporter and member of the committee, and it was his wish that a new Session-house should be built worthy of Moneyrea. The new building was a very beautiful structure and reflected the greatest credit on the contractor. Councillor Fred J. Lavery, F.A.I., Belfast, who was accompanied by Mrs. Lavery, speaking on behalf of the donors, said it was a great pleasure for him to be present at that interesting ceremony. It was a great privilege on behalf of the donors—Miss Rosanna C. Porter and Miss Matilda J. Porter—to ask the trustees and congregation to accept the building as a memorial to one of the oldest families in connection with the congregation. The affection of the donors for, and their interest in, the welfare of their Church was well known. It was their earnest prayer that much blessing would result to the congregation through the acquisition of the new Session-house. On behalf of the congregation and committee a vote of thanks was passed to the donors on the proposition of Mr. Hugh Frame, seconded by Mr. James Frame. The Moderator, Rev. J. J. Magill, Rademon, dedicated the new building, and the ceremony closed with the Benediction.

Belfast, York Street—The Annual Report of this Congregation once more shows an advance in almost every direction. Membership, stipend, collections are the largest in the history of the Church and the long standing debt has been reduced to a nominal sum. It is a record of which the congregation may be proud considering that the Church has had to be rebuilt and maintained by those who have come to it in a time of constant depression. The evening attendances as a rule exceed the seating capacity of the church.

The events of the past two months are too numerous to report. Every evening in every week has been occupied with the exception of Monday nights. The Annual Pantomime succeeded beyond our expectations. The Hall was filled an hour before the performance on the second and third nights and it was only due to the kindness of some of our members in giving up their seats that we were able to accommodate friends from the country congregations and even then many had to be turned away. Two extra performances are now taking place but it is obvious that there will be a demand for more. We urge on country friends coming to such functions in York Street or attending the Evening Service to come in early as nothing causes us more regret than to have to turn away those who have gone to considerable trouble to support us.

Newry—The annual soiree and prize-giving of the Sunday school connected with the First Presbyterian (Unitarian) Church, Newry, was held on Wednesday evening, 7th March. A goodly number of scholars and friends was present. After partaking of refreshments, games were indulged in for a little while, when the proceedings took the form of a concert. Mr. C. Warnock, the superintendent, spoke of the past year's working of the school, and introduced as chairman, the temporary minister, the Rev. J. Morley Mills, of Manchester. Mr. Mills spoke in appreciative terms of the acquaintance he was making with the town, and all connected with the church and school. He then proceeded to distribute book prizes to a number of scholars for regular attendance and good conduct during the past year. Recitations were given by several junior scholars and pianoforte solos were creditably rendered by Misses Muriel Thompson and Aggie Lockhart. Another series of social games brought to a close an enjoyable and profitable evening.

Mountpottinger—A new era dawned at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation held on March 7th when Mrs. H. B. McCullough, Mrs. J. Russell and Miss K. Forrest were nominated by the members of the Women's League to bring the Church Committee up to the numerical strength indicated in the Rules of the Congregation. The male members who served last year were re-elected,

Messrs H. B. McCullough and E. R. Jackson were asked to retain the positions of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer as were also Messrs H. Thomas and J. Orr, the Hon. Auditors. Messrs. L. Watters and W. W. Wilson were again chosen as Hon Treasurers for the Sunday School and Choir whilst Messrs L. Watters and E. Mitchell were called upon to continue the work of Envelope Secretaries under the Free Will Offering scheme. Miss Rita McMinn was elected to the position of Magazine Secretary in the place of her sister who had requested to be relieved of office. The Minister presided over the proceedings in which the only wrong note struck was the fact that our debit balance showed a slight increase on the year's working. The business being concluded light refreshments were served by the ladies and a short musical programme arranged by our Organist, Mr. H. Shepherd, followed. On the following evening a really enjoyable Concert and Dramatic entertainment arranged by Mr. Shepherd in aid of the Church Funds too place. Songs were contributed by Miss Peggy Shannon (Holywood), Messrs Cunningham and Dowie whilst Mr. T. J. Donovan's violin solos were a pleasing feature. Mr. J. Pearson provided the humourous element and Miss B. Moore was heard to advantage as Elocutionist. Mr. H. Shepherd acted as accompanist in his customary skilled manner. The Sydenham Players gave a really good performance of a three Act Comedy entitled "The Rebellion of Pamela", the name part being capably rendered by Miss N. McGregor Hay who received excellent support from the other members of the caste. E.R.J.

Newry—The Rev. J. Morley Mills has consented to continue the pastorate for another three months. It is a matter of gratification not only to the congregation, but to the N. S. P. Church, to have this very able minister, for another quarter, in Ireland. Mr. Mills although he is on the retired list, is full of youthful vigour and fire.

Ballyhemlin—The congregation begins "Hymns of Worship," the new hymn book on Easter Sunday.

Moneyrea—Moneyrea Public Elementary School on 19th January, when a concert was held, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to school funds. The chair was occupied by Mr. Hugh Frame, who is manager of the school. The programme commenced with selections by the Eclipse Mandoline Band from Gilnahirk, whose rendering of several well known melodies received well merited applause. Miss Hume was very happy in her choice of songs, and she had to respond to encores on several occasions, while Mr. W. L. Doggart's songs were also much enjoyed. The Misses Lallie Gibson and Gretta Thompson from Newtownards supplied a sketch which created no little enjoyment. It was entitled "A Bow with Two Strings." Miss Eileen Morrow, a little girl who has not yet reached her teens, was a very successful elocutionist whose contributions were most popular with the audience. Mr. Sam Murphy (Belfast) sang some of the well known ditties of the present day. Professor Hercat, the well known ventriloquial performer, provided a very interesting interlude with his friend "James." Quite a novelty at a concert in these parts was supplied by Messrs. David Gelston and H. McKibbin, who contributed selections on the bag-pipes, and these were well received. Another somewhat unusual item was that given by the chor of Comber Unitarian Church. The membiers, attired as Gypsies, appeared around a camp-fire, and before lanterns with shaded lights, and they occupied the platform for some time with a very realistic performance of a camp-fire entertainment. The accompaniments throughout the evening were played in a very efficient manner by Miss Murphy.

Belfast Domestic Mission—The Annual Sermons were delivered on Sunday, March 4th, by the Rev. J. Morley Mills of Manchester, in All Soul's Church in the morning and First Church, Rosemary St, in the evening. Mr. Mills, who is taking temporary charge of the Newry Church, was a welcome visitor, bringing fresh enthusiasm and inspiring suggestions, he stressed the need for Domestic Missions in helping people to organise their lives spiritually and especially urged the value of personal service to individual members of the Mission. This idea was further developed at the Annual Meeting on the following afternoon in the Central Hall when under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Hume, O.B.E., the subscribers met to hear the Reports of the Management Committee and the Ladies Committee, and that of the Missioner, the Rev William Eakin. Mrs. Hume, in moving the adoption of the Reports and Financial statements, made several valuable suggestions for the development of the activities at the Mission, and Mr. Harold Thomas, as seconder, urged a wider interest among the members of the Belfast churches in the work at the Mission. The Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., and Miss Armstrong expressed the gratitude of the meeting to the Rev. J. Morley Mills for his

addresses and the Rev. S. P. Whitehouse spoke in glowing terms of the valuable work done by the voluntary workers at the Mission, dwelling in particular on the devoted service rendered by Dr. Malcolm Brice Smyth during the illness of the late missioner. Many were the expressions of regret that the period of usefulness of the late Mr. A. C. Senior at the Mission was of so short a duration, but it was very evident that every confidence was reposed in the new Missioner, Rev. W. Eakin, and the meeting closed on a note of sustained confidence.—E. M. Jackson, Hon. Sec.

Killinchy—*The Killinchy Unitarian Players* gave a rendering of Sean O'Casey's play "The Shadow of a Gunman" on Friday 9th and Saturday, 10th of February, at 7-30 each night. The Lecture Hall was crowded on both nights and the play was very well received. The chief characters were Messrs James Osborne and James Stewart who sustained their parts in exemplary manner throughout each representation. The other characters who helped to sustain the argument were Miss Osborne, Mrs. Kelly, Miss Hay, with Messrs Wm. Banks, H. Kelly, J. H. Fitchie, Frank Bishop and Frank Osborne. The play was anticipated with considerable expectation by the general public, for it required much rehearsal and preparation. The two principal parts rendered the argument with verve and their energy were much admired, and the enunciation of one was perfect in its enunciation, for it indicated fear of the "Gunman". These two were well supported by the other players who entered into the spirit of the piece with conviction in spite of the distracting revolutionary ideas that were abroad. We were grateful to Mr. Boston and party for supplying very enjoyable and suitable music which was highly appreciated by the audiences. The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Church was held on Tuesday, February 27th, 1934, when a good company of members and their families were present to spend an evening together and to hear an account of receipts and expenditure during the year which ended on December 31st, 1933. It was pleasant to find so many gathered for a social function. Tea was provided by the ladies of the Congregation, which was greatly enjoyed by adults and the children at 7-30 p.m. The Scholars of the Sunday School were also present, who later in the evening received book prizes for regular attendance which were gracefully distributed by Miss S. M. Hay, who until lately was a teacher in the School. The Rev. D. J. Williams presided over the Congregational Meeting, who reviewed the affairs of the church during the year which he regarded as prosperous as could be expected considering the difficult times the country and the world have experienced. Our religious status has been fairly well maintained without undue difficulties to ruffle the even tenour of our way. We have during the year lost a considerable number of old members together with some young ones whom we greatly miss. The Sunday School has maintained its position during the year thanks to the teachers and scholars, and is well attended with few absentees. Sunday attendance at worship was rather better than of late years—meaning by that the number attendance every Sunday, especially the younger members, but still there is room for improvement. The Church accounts were dealt with by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Hugh Kelly, who gave a resume of receipts and expenditure, the details of which he promised to post up on the notice board of the church for inspection. Our Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Lindsay, whose health has of late been indifferent, intimated his desire to give up the office in which he has served for the past 25 years. The members are reluctant to part with his services, and have asked him to continue for a short period until the Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Finlay, and he have arranged matters among them. We have been during the past year fortunate in having Mr. Hugh Kelly as our Hon. Secretary, who has attended to his duties with exemplary fidelity. His re-election for the ensuing year was passed with acclamation. The Committee for the year was re-elected with the addition of Mr. John McConnell who takes the place of his deceased uncle. The children of the Sunday School provided an entertainment which was greatly enjoyed by an appreciative audience. The following programme speaks for itself. A chorus by the children, "Old Mother Grey"; recitation, "The Dusty Little Window;" by Kathleen Orr. Dialogue by Lena and Nelly Irvine. Recitation, "Getting Up", by Shiela Orr. A Sketch, by the Girls "Annie's Holiday". Song, Kathleen Stewart. A Heather Song by the children. The meeting was brought to an end by singing the Doxology and the pronouncing of the benediction.

Belfast Domestic Mission—The past month has been one of our busiest at the mission. All organizations sharing in the work of providing for the intellectiual social and religious needs of those associated with

the mission. The study circle in connection with the Sunday School is growing in numbers and interest. A well attended children's service was held on the last Sunday in February. The programme of readings, recitations, prayers and hymns was contributed by the Sunday School pupils. The regular weekly debate held under the auspices of the social club has proved not only interesting but helpful as a training in public speaking for all who attend. A successful concert was held on March 9th. The programme arranged by Miss F. Newman, A.T.C.L., was of a high standard and was greatly appreciated by the large audience which filled the hall to its utmost capacity. The following artists took part: Vocalists—Miss Doris Chisholm, Miss Lottie McConnell, Master Stanley McNeilly and Mr. McClelland. Elocutionists—Misses Winnie Nesbitt and Elsie Wilkinson. Dances by Miss Lily Lutton's pupils. Sketches—"The Lodger" by Comber Unity Players under direction of Mrs. J. Glynne Davies. "Tranformation" by the Rosemary Dramatic Society. Producer, Miss Nan Newman. Miss Florence Newman, A.T. C.L. acted as accompanist. We are deeply indebted to all the friends who contributed to the programme and to those who helped in other ways to make the concert a success. We acknowledge with sincere thanks the following valued gifts towards the furnishing of our Club Room:—Miss MacGiffin magazines, Miss F. Newman card table, Mr. F. M. Pett card table, Mr. J. MacKenzie (Hon. Treas.) two tables, three chairs, two pictures and cakestand. A special service will be held on Easter Sunday morning at 11-30 a.m. The programme will be contributed by the young people and children. Miss A. F. Montgomery, leader of the social service girl's clubs is to be congratulated on the splended performance of her junior choir in the recent musical competitions.—W.E.

Dromore—The Annual Soiree, and Prize Distribution was held on Thursday evening, March 8th, in the Rampart Street Schoolroom, the chair being taken by the Rev. A. Davison. In introducing the programme, which was provided almost entirely by the scholars, Mr. Davison said that not for many years had he seen such a large attendance of parents. Their presence there that night was gratifying alike to the Teachers, and to the Scholars, who, he was sure, would do their parts all the better in the knowledge that their elders were listening to them. The attendance of the Scholars had never been better than in the past year, and for this their thanks were due to the Teachers for their devoted labours, and to the parents, without whose co-operation it would be impossible to carry on successfully the Sunday School work. The results accomplished should encourage the hope that still better work will be done in the present year. The Chairman announced that 54 Scholars had qualified for Prizes—an increase of one over the number of the year previous. There was little variation from year to year in the members on the School roll, but there was a distinct improvement in the attendance, as was shown by the fact that of the 54 scholars who had won prizes, 32 had made a perfect attendance, as compared with 14 the year previous. At the conclusion of the programme, the thanks of the meeting were expressed to the scholars for the pleasure they had given; also to Miss Johnston, Miss Graham and Miss Spence for the time and trouble they had taken in training them, and to the tea-makers for their willing services. On leaving the room each scholar was presented with a bag of sweets—the gift of a good friend of the Sunday School.

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